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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 19 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

During the just-concluded general debate of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, delegates from a very few countries have once again raised the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations". In this regard, and upon instruction from my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The one-China principle has already been widely recognized by the international community. The great majority of States Members of the United Nations have diplomatic relations with China and they have all acknowledged that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. In 1971, the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolution 2758 (XXVI), which has solved once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. As of that day, when the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations were restored, its Government has rightfully represented all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, in the United Nations and in all its subsidiary bodies. This has best safeguarded the principle of universality of the United Nations. There is simply no such issue as that of the so-called "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations".

2. The United Nations is an intergovernmental international organization composed of sovereign States. Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulates in unmistakable terms that membership in the United Nations is open to only sovereign States. As a part of China, and already covered by China's representation in the United Nations, Taiwan is not eligible to participate on its own, in any other name or pretext, in the work or activities of the United Nations system or its specialized agencies. However, a very few countries have openly raised the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" on the platform of the General Assembly, attempting to create in the United Nations a situation of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". Such an act has constituted a violation of the

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purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It is a gross interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government strongly condemns this and expresses its utmost indignation.

3. The General Committees of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 have all flatly refused to include the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" on the agenda of the General Assembly. This fully demonstrates the determination of the vast number of Member States to safeguard the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, as well as their strong will to preserve Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). We appreciate the position of the great majority of Member States who have abided by the one-China principle and opposed Taiwan's participation in international organizations that can only be composed of sovereign States. We thank all countries that have upheld justice on the question of Taiwan and supported China's great cause of reunification. At the same time, we are confident that any separatist act to create "two Chinas", or "one China, one Taiwan", is against the tide of history, and any attempt to support such acts will be doomed to failure.

4. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China, which brooks no foreign interference. To solve this question and realize the reunification of the motherland is a lofty historic mission for the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan. The basic policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", proposed by the Chinese Government, has not only taken into account the paramount interest of national development and the long-term interests of the entire Chinese population but has also fully accommodated and helped protect the immediate interests of our compatriots in Taiwan and Taiwan's need for development. The smooth return of Hong Kong and Macao to China have served as telling examples of the great success of this policy. We are confident that a proper solution will eventually be found to the question of Taiwan in accordance with the policy of "one country, two systems". And we have every reason to believe that in the just cause of safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese Government and people will be able to continue to count on the Governments and peoples of the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations for their understanding and support.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
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Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations